Message Text

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R 302005Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,SK,BY,RW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREAN APPROACH TO BURUNDI

REF:(A) STATE 189061; (B) BUJUMBURA 1003 (NOTAL); (C) SEOUL 9105 (NOTAL)

1. ON DECEMBER 28 KOREAN FIRST SECRETARY, SAN KIL SHIN, INFORMED AF/C COUNTRY OFFICER THAT IN RESPONSE TO U.S. RECOMMENDATIONS (AS CONTAINED REFTELS), KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN INITIATIVES TO RE-ESTABLISH AND IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH BURUNDI. ACCORDING TO SHIN, ROK FEELS THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IN BURUNDI PROVIDES A PROPITIOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE ROK/GRB RELATIONS.

2. ROK INFORMED ITS EMBASSY HERE THAT AS A FIRST GESTURE, KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO

TRAVEL TO BURUNDI TO CALL ON NEW BURUNDI OFFICIALDOM. HOWEVER, BURUNDI EMBASSY IN ZAIRE HAS RESPONDED "COLDLY AND NEGATIVELY" TO AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST FOR A VISA TO ENTER BURUNDI. ROK INSTRUCTED ITS EMBASSY HERE TO SEEK U.S. ASSISTANCE IN GETTING THE WORD TO GRB REGARDING SIGNIFICANCE OF ROK GESTURE AND ENCOURAGING GRB TO AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF VISA.

3. FOR BUJUMBURA: DEPT. WOULD WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS. AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY INFORM GRB OF ROK'S DESIRE NORMALIZE RELATIONS; EXPRESS USG SUPPORT FOR THIS INITIATIVE; AND URGE THAT BURUNDI EMBASSY KINSHASA BE INSTRUCTED TO EXTEND APPROPRIATE COURTESIES TO ROK AMBASSADOR.

4. FOR KIGALI: IN VIEW OF REFTEL(A), WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ADVICE ON WHETHER ROK REP MIGHT ALSO USEFULLY VISIT KIGALI AT THIS TIME. ROBINSON

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